

AGAWAM CITIZEN

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AGAWAM'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1975



Special Edition Includes Annual Town Report



Robert Newton Peck

By DONNA CAMPBELL

For those who feel that the world is becoming more corrupt all the time, Robert Newton Peck is a refreshing change. Born and raised on a farm in Vermont in the Shaker tradition, the 6' 4" man with a large cowboy hat, creates a very different image from that of many modern authors.

Peck was scheduled to speak at the Agawam Public Library on Feb. 13 at 8:00 p.m. Prior to this, he was taken to Vincent's Steak House by library and school staff members. During the dinner he was warm, witty and spoke with the grace of a sincere gentleman.

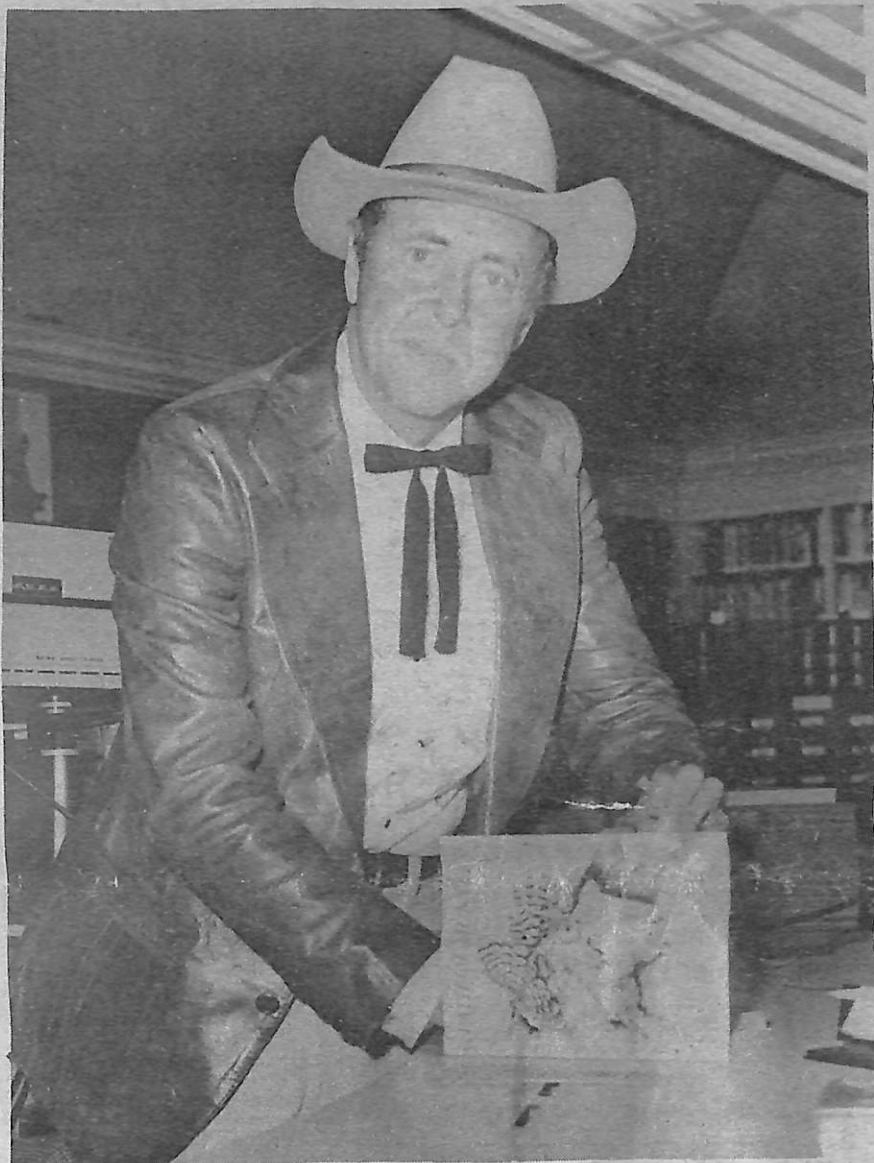
Many of his humorous anecdotes deal with the Vermont farm of his childhood life. They are also in his book, *A Day No Pigs Would Die*. Both the anecdotes and the book are enough to produce laughter, tears, chuckles or simply a warm sentimental feeling.

As he was speaking to a receptive audience at the Agawam Public Library, tears ran down his cheeks as he spoke of a touching incident. He immediately said, "I don't know if all this is touching any of you, but I'm doing a great job of touching myself up here."

Peck spoke of his book, nicknamed "Pigs", as an autobiographical account of his childhood. He emphasized that one has to write what one knows and feels from pain or beauty. "There is a book inside each one of us," he added. Peck replies to people that ask why there is no sex or filth in his books, saying, "You have to write what you know about!" "Pigs" is about what he learned from four compelling characters in his life: His mother, his father, a pig and himself. "And that's everything," he stated simply.

Peck also realizes the difference between the society of today and that from which he came. He said that one of his two children received a Valentine from her grandmother with a dollar inside and he received one from Mary Jo down the street. Peck's daughter said, "How much did you get, Daddy?"

In reply to a question from the audience concerning whether Peck ever returned to his home town since his great success. Peck said,



ROBERT NEWTON PECK

"They still remember me as the one who put in crooked fence posts." To emphasize this fact, Peck recounted the time he met one of his former town's people. The farmer said to Peck, "I heard you wrote a book. Peck answered, "That's right, did you read it?" The man replied, "Nope." So much for becoming famous in his Vermont home town according to Peck.

After Peck's warmth, vitality, sentiment and humor pervaded the spirits of his audience for one hour, he and his "followers" became even more warm and vital with pink champagne at the library.

Again, for all those who complain about illicit sex, illicit drugs and an illicit society, Robert Newton Peck's books are a must with their simple genuine

accounts of humanity. His final words were, "Be what you were born to be and be proud of it!" Peck is a wonderful example of this saying and he shows that one does not have to be a follower in this "day and age." Rather, he still has faith that there are sentimental and beautiful people everywhere demanding licit portrayals of mankind.

Projects School Needs

School Committee Submits Capital Budget To Council

A capital budget program projecting school department needs through 1979-80 was submitted to the Town Council recently. The most immediate need is for the installation of sprinkler systems in some of the older schools. The installation has been recommended by the Agawam Fire Marshal and by the insurance companies who insure school department property. The three schools involved are Danahy, Peirce, and the Middle School with the highest priority being attached to Danahy. The other request for 1975-76 is for additional parking at the new Agawam Junior High School. This school is receiving extensive use after normal school hours by all segments of the town. The parking is presently hazardous and facilities must be provided in the near future to enable townspeople to safely park their vehicles without destroying some of the playing field areas.

There are no requests for 1976-1977 but in the 1977-78 school year, a major renovation of the high school including modernization of many of the facilities will be required in order to keep accreditation. A tentative estimate of \$500,000. has

been submitted. The Town Library Committee and the High School Modernization Committee are also considering a combination of facilities to serve the town.

Depending upon economic conditions and the rate of growth in the town it is possible that around 1978 there will be a requirement for a new elementary school or some additional classrooms at the elementary level and the Middle School level. The committee has indicated the possibility of submitting a request for moneys into the Capital Budget Program for 1978-79.

Peirce and Danahy are two of the oldest schools. Both of them have required extensive repairs during the last several years and will continue to do so. In the committee's opinion, major renovation of these two schools must be undertaken in the next five to ten year period. Therefore for 1979-80, the committee has shown a tentative requirement for the renovation of Peirce School at an approximate cost of \$150,000.

Presumably most of these projects will qualify for state aid and the cost to the town will therefore represent approximately 35 per cent of the estimates shown.

Margaret Hill-Sarno To Direct Chorus And Choir In Musical

With a strong experienced downbeat, Margaret Hill-Sarno of 136 Parker St., Agawam will direct a chorus of thirty two performers the twenty piece orchestra, when the Saint Martha Players of Enfield present their spring production of "The Unsinkable Molly Brown".

Working first with the Players as special vocal coach during "Gypsy", Mrs. Sarno takes on the Meredith

Willson musical as her second assignment, having been musical director for the group's summer production of Willson's "The Music Man."

A 1939 scholarship winner to the Juilliard School of Music in New York City, she directed the Springfield Turnverein Ladies' Chorus for twenty-three years and the Hadassah Chorus for two years.

The soprano soloist at

Springfield's Trinity Methodist Church for eighteen years, she has sung with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra in Handel's "Messiah" and Elgar's "Caractacus", as well as numerous civic events and has appears with the Oratorio Societies of Long Island and New England.

As a performer, Mrs. Sarno acted with the Springfield Repertory Theater for many years and

appeared in many of the Kiwani's Club musicals, directed by Bob Day.

Patrons of the Student Prince Restaurant in Springfield might recognize her as the director of its quartet of Christmas carolers, who have been serenading yuletide diners, annually for twenty-two years.

Having taught privately for many years, Mrs. Sarno has recently become af-

filiated with David Potter's Enfield Dance Workshop, where she will serve as instructor of voice and piano.

"The Unsinkable Molly Brown", directed and choreographed by David Potter will be presented March 14, 15, 21 and 22 on the stage of Enfield's Enrico Fermi High School.

Tickets may be reserved by calling the Anchorman Answering Systems of Enfield.

News In The Third

Racial Imbalance

By a 133 to 87 roll call, the House voted this week to repeal the 1965 state Racial Imbalance Act.

The vote was a symbolic gesture. Desegregation by means of busing must continue anyway in Boston and Springfield under existing court orders. Repeal of the state law will not change that.

But beyond the symbolic protest against the dislocation and violence and deterioration of education and have been the product of the court orders and the peoples' resistance to them there is also the matter of hard cash.

Some 9.5 million dollars for Boston and 2 million dollars for Springfield to help pay for the desegregation process were authorized last year as part of the changes in the law, changes that removed forced busing anyway. So by repealing the law, the House has cut off funds which would have aided the two cities with the problems of carrying out the court orders. The bill has now been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Taxing Gas Hogs

The House overturned an adverse committee report on a bill that would increase the motor vehicle excise tax by some 20 per cent (from \$66 per thousand to \$78 per thousand) for private

passenger cars with low fuel economy.

The bill would apply only to 1976 and later models. For 1976-78 models it would cover cars getting less than 15 mpg., for 1979-80, cars getting less than 18 mpg, and 1981 and later models getting less than 20 mpg. (There is strong sentiment for a federal mandate that the automobile manufacturers start now to decrease horse power rating, thereby increasing miles per gallon, starting now and with models 1976 thru 1981).

Overturning the adverse report means that the bill remains alive for possible passage later in the session. For the present it has been referred to the Committee on Public Safety which currently has before it another bill which would require a higher registration fee for high horsepower cars.

These are two different approaches to the same end. The registration fee route would avoid the existing mechanical foul-ups in the excise tax billing and avoid the problems of processing rebates for converts who sell their gas hogs in the middle of the year to buy a more economical car, but the excise tax route has the very real advantage of directly channelling the extra revenue directly to the hard pressed cities and towns without it being absorbed by the state bureaucracy.

Post 185 To Hold Open House

Town residents are invited to an open house of the Wilson-Thompson Post 185, American Legion, Sunday, March 9, from 2-5 p.m.

A program has been arranged to show the Legion activities in the community, state and nation.

The Agawam Fire Department will demonstrate the "Jaws For Life" section of their new Rescue Truck.

Representatives of town, state and federal government have been invited to attend as well as all Veterans and members of all local organizations.

Refreshments will be served.

Ladies Aid Society

Plan Supper

On Saturday, March 1, the Ladies Aid Society is sponsoring a Capital Fund meat pie supper on March 1 at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. Continuous serving from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Meat pie, gravy, mashed potato, green beans, cabbage salad, home made muffins, dessert and beverage. For reservations call Mrs. George Andrews 786-8183 or Mrs. James Atwater 734-2343.

Give Heart Fund

Ellen Fuller In Musical At Our Lady of Elms

Ellen Fuller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fuller, 23 Edgewood Lane, Agawam, will be appearing in a production of the musical "Stop the World I Want to Get Off," Feb. 27 - March 4, at the College of Our Lady of the Elms, Chicopee.

Miss Fuller, a Freshman, is a Social Work major and a

Dean's List student at the College. She is also a member of the Sociology Club, and does volunteer work with the handicapped at Mount Marie in Holyoke.

Ellen was active in Agawam High School musicals, and is a member of the Chorus in this production.

Elaine Gregory On Dean's List At Lasell

Elaine Gregory, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vinton E. Gregory of Agawam, a member of the Freshman class at Lasell Junior College, Newton, has been named to the Dean's List for the first semester.

Miss Gregory is enrolled in the Medical Laboratory Technician program at the College.

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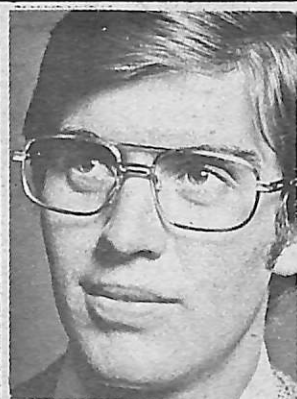
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Saracino Named Business Chairman By Heart Association

The Western Chapter of the Massachusetts Heart Association has announced the appointment of Raymond Saracino as General Business Chairman in Agawam for 1975.

Saracino, a graduate of Agawam High School and a sports enthusiast, is well known in the community. He is presently serving as Town Assessor, served on the Park and Recreation Committee, Planning Board and the new

Junior High Building Committee. He is a member of the West Springfield - Agawam Elks and a member of the Massachusetts Assessors Association.

He resides at 245 High Street with his wife, Shirley, and their three children Laurie, Regina, and Peter.

Saracino is employed at Springfield Sugar and Products Inc. as Assistant Director of Packaging.



The Feeding Hills office of the Western Bank and Trust Company, located in the Village Shops area, is the only commercial bank in Feeding Hills. The branch was opened November 26, 1968, and has since become "the good neighbor" of the community. The philosophy of WESTBANK has always been Fully Personalized Service to all customers, and community involvement by bank personnel. As a full service bank, the Feeding Hills Branch offers forty-seven different kinds of services including Ready NOW Accounts and FREE Checking Accounts. WESTBANK prepared a brochure of Community Facts about Agawam which includes a Town Map for the convenience of newcomers as well as established residents. This brochure is available free of charge at the Feeding Hills Branch.

Newcomers To Meet

The Agawam - West Springfield Newcomers Club will meet March 4 at 8 p.m. at the Capt. Charles Leonard House.

The topic for the evening is Wills. Speaker will be a representative from Third National Bank. Due to the subject of our meeting husbands are invited to come with their wives.

Any woman new to the area, or just looking for a friendly night out is welcome to join us. For further information please call 786-0269.

Wayne Gates Named To "Who's Who"

Wayne B. Gates, Jr., son of Mrs. Wayne B. Gates, 22 Leonard St., Agawam, has been selected for the 1975 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges."

Gates is among 46 students selected from the University of Hartford for inclusion in the 1975 edition. He is a senior majoring in economics and finance at the Austin Dunham Barney School of Business and Public Administration, a UofH component.

Active in U of H varsity athletics, Gates was a member of the soccer team for four years and acted as team co-captain during his senior year. He participated in the 1974 Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament.

Gates, a dean's list student, has also been active in U of H intramural sports and served as a residence hall assistant.



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Disabled of West. Mass. To Meet

Disabled of Western Mass. will hold their next meeting Thursday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Red Cross Chapter House, 275 Maple St., Springfield.

For further information call Janice Underhill at 739-6033. Public is welcome.

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Murray Appointed Community Chairman

Edward Murray has been appointed Community Chairman of the Westfield Heart Fund drive, to be conducted in Westfield during February.

Murray, a graduate of Boston College, is a member of the American Society of Hospital Food Service Administrators and has worked as a fund raiser for the

United Way.

Murray, resides with his wife and infant son, at 418 Meadow St. Agawam.

He is Food Service Director at Noble Hospital in Westfield.

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Longmeadow Nips Agawam Despite Quinn

Longmeadow's senior center Jeff Folkins connected on a 12 foot jumper with 12 seconds left in overtime lifting the Lancers to a thrilling 78-76 decision over Agawam Feb. 21 in Longmeadow.

The loss dropped Agawam's record to 8-12 in Division I further dimming their tournament hopes. With six squads already qualifying for the Division I playoffs, the Brownies are one of three squads in contention for the last two spots.

As of Feb. 22 Pittsfield had a record of 9-8 and Minnechaug just recently brought up into Division I from Division II are 10-9. The Tournament Committee met yesterday Feb. 26. Chairman for the committee is Agawam High Principal Dave Theodorowicz.

Theodorowicz said he has

no idea what would happen on Wednesday, but he did say every team has something in their favor to be considered. "The 59 per cent record is what is going to be looked at," Theodorowicz commented. The Brownies played their second contest in a row without the services of steady forward Karl Ekstedt. Ekstedt has been hampered by a foot infection. "Without Karl we just turned Tommy (Quinn) loose," said an obviously disappointed Brownie Coach Wayne Morse.

"We really played well and lost," Morse lamented. Every kid that played did a good job," he added.

Before Quinn fouled out with 1:20 remaining in overtime, he put on a 30 point second half side show which almost gave Agawam their first victory over the Valley Wheel kingpins.



Agawam's Tommy Quinn gets ready to drive by Lancer defenders during fourth quarter action. Looking to aid Quinn is backcourtmate Mark Winne (21). Photo by Bill Keogh.

Grapplers Downed At Tournament

Only in their second season of varsity wrestling, Agawam matmen Matty Mason, Bobby Cardwell, and Chuck Girard reached the State Tourney Feb. 21 stemming from stellar exhibitions a week earlier in the Western Mass Schoolboy Wrestling Tournament.

The Trio were unable to advance past the first round during the tourney held in front of a huge gathering at Brockton High School last Friday and Saturday.

"The interest and caliber of wrestling out there is unreal," offered first year Coach Phil Tomkiel. "The crowd was just unbelievable," Tomkiel added in reference to the packed gym.

Both Cardwell and Girard were pinned while Matty Mason lost an 8-1 decision. During his match Mason suffered a stretched shoulder muscle but the tough senior somehow managed to complete the bout. "Matty really hung in there," Tomkiel noted.

Highly Rated

Although Tomkiel's fine trio had their problems at the State Meet, all three had an outstanding Western Mass Tournament Feb. 14 and 15 at Granby High School.

The Brownies, who entered 7 combatants finished 8th over all in team standing. "The lack of depth hurt us in the tournament just like it did all season," Tomkiel sighed.

Mason, who was seeded second in the 157 pound class ended in that spot for his section of the two division tournament won by Westfield and Tech.

In his fourth and final encounter which decided the Western Mass champion in the 157 class, Mason lost a protested bout against a top seeded Granby opponent.

Tomkiel Upset

The reason for the protest was Tomkiel's anger over a call against Mason which cost him a vital point. "The officials thought Matty was stalling, then they called him for interlocking his hands, and he did neither," Tomkiel said. "Those things just happen."

Girard and Cardwell found themselves ranked second and third in their respective classes. (147 and 127 pounds). Girard had a few problems in his first match and was pinned by a lower seeded South Hadley foe.

4 Matches

Girard wrestled 4 matches on Saturday (Feb. 15) making his one day work more than any other matman during the entire tournament. Girard captured 5th for his efforts.

Bobby Cardwell, a surprise for Tomkiel all season long, captured second billing in his weight class. "Bobby lost 4 matches this year and of them he should have won three," Tomkiel observed.

Pleasant Note

Another pleasant note for the Brownies came in the form of sophomore Brett Coughlin who cranked a 6th position in light weight competition. "Brett is an up and coming wrestler," Tomkiel said of his crafty sophomore.

The Brownies final dual meet record dropped to 2-10-2 compared to 6-8 in their first year of competition.

NOTES: The Wrestlers will hold their banquet March 1 at the home of Mrs. Girard. See the March 6 issue of the Citizen for banquet coverage.

Quinn, who had a very poor first half, saw Longmeadow zoom out into a 58-43 third period bulge after a 30-30 opening 16 minutes. The Lancers John Reardon and Folkins led the home surge which seemed to wrap things up with 8 minutes to go.

However in period four Quinn displayed some incredible long range marksmanship spiced with a number of acrobatic layups to bring the Brownies charging back.

His 10 points in the final three minutes spurred the visitors into a 72-70 lead with only 7 seconds left.

The Lancers Folkins then countered by dropping in a bucket after grabbing a Phil Mackler air ball with 1 second showing on the clock. "I still can't get over that," Morse said.

Fouled Out

In the overtime Quinn fouled out and once again Folkins brought life into Longmeadow with his clutch winning hoop.

Following Folkins basket the Brownies had 4 shots roll in and out or around the rim in the final 5 seconds. "We just should have won," Morse said.

Quinn Tops

Quinn led all scorers with 34 points while Folkins drilled 30 to lead Longmeadow. Senior center Jeff Carmody hit 15, 13 of them coming in the first half.

"I'm very pleased with Jeff's play, and Ralph Meyers did a fine job," Morse mentioned. "Greg Fuchs did a helluva job on Mike Fowler who I think is they're best ballplayer," he added.

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School Committee Budget Message

A school budget of \$5,420,626. has been approved for 1975-1976. This is an increase of 10.7 per cent over the previous year. The School Committee recognized the general economic conditions are such that every effort had to be made to hold down the increases in the school budget to the smallest possible amount while still providing Agawam children with the opportunity to get an education that prepares them for the future.

Approximately 80 per cent of the school budget consists of personnel costs. Increments, settlements negotiated with the Teachers' Association, and increases for all other employees cause most of the additional expense over the prior year.

Special education requirements mandated by the state continue to exert a strong upward pressure on the budget. Additional personnel in the form of a director, teachers and aides have been needed in order to meet obligations imposed by Chapter 766. While Agawam's program for children with special needs was substantial prior to the passage of Chapter 766, the necessity for providing a significantly higher level of services and extensive reports to the state means additional dollars in the budget.

Agawam continues to have a growing school population in contrast to nearby towns. Last year, except for special education as stated above, no new staff was added; but, in a two year period a growth of some two hundred students makes it mandatory to increase the professional staff. This year, for the last time, one additional month of teachers' salaries (\$285,000.) must be included in the budget to comply with the state's new fiscal year accounting system.

The School Committee was assisted by a sub-committee of the Town Council comprising Mr. Edmund Coffey, Chairman, Dr. Paul Query and Mrs. Jane Giordano. The sub-committee attended all of the budget sessions and was most helpful and constructive to the school committee in their difficult budget task.

Agawam Public Schools 1975-76 School Budget

	1974-75	1975-76
1. School Committee	8,589	9,360
2. Superintendent's Office	119,570	142,261
3. Supervision	55,009	76,791
4. Principals	337,661	362,658
5. Teaching	3,420,893	3,855,211
6. Textbooks	51,041	52,116
7. Library	65,369	72,891
8. Audio Visual Program	33,231	39,003
9. Guidance Services	120,880	144,728
10. Psychological Services	30,072	27,959
11. Attendance	10,790	11,479
12. Health Services	8,790	4,250
13. Food Services	18,129	20,030
14. Athletics	23,701	27,309
15. Other School Activities	10,585	11,430
16. Utility Services	9,700	15,000
17. Maintenance of Buildings	1,450	3,000
18. Maintenance of Equipment	14,131	16,780
19. Insurance Program	47,800	36,650
20. Civic Activities	10,000	12,000
21. Acquisition and Improvement of Sites	1,000	0
22. Acquisition and Improvement of Buildings	2,140	5,155
23. Acquisition of Equipment — Federal Project	1,500	1,500
24. Acquisition of Equipment	25,000	30,000
25. Replacement of Equipment	15,000	20,000
26. Program With Other Districts	109,890	119,500
TOTALS	4,551,921	5,117,061
Transportation	339,940	298,565
Out of State Travel	3,750	5,000
TOTAL	4,895,611	5,420,626
Estimated Reimbursement From State	1,182,740	1,262,000

Swimmers Dunked At Regional Tourney

Brownie flippers found rough waters and hard times at the annual Western Mass. Swim Meet held Feb. 14 and 15 in Longmeadow.

Swim Coach Dave Smith entered his forces in 5 events and all fell fairly short of placing for meet points. "I wasn't too disappointed in what happened," Smith said. "We did improve on a school record."

Free relayers Ray Carestia, Bobby Johnson, Danny Williams, and an-

chorman Dave Theodorowicz placed 14th with a clocking of 4.24.8. The time beat the school record by more than 3 seconds.

Senior diver Frank Ball reached second round competition before being eliminated. Ball took 22th in the two day tourney.

The remaining events saw the medley relay quartet fall very short of placing and senior Dave Theodorowicz swim a solid 100 yard back stroke. However T's time

was not nearly enough to place.

Sophomore Dave Masisco didn't have a particularly good afternoon in his 100 yard breast stroke race. Masisco, like Theodorowicz failed to gain any points.

"I think Dave (Masisco) was just awed by the whole thing," related Smith. "He went out too fast and he just tired out."

The swimmers final dual meet mark came to 1-14 overall and 1-10 in their division.

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F78-14	\$48.15	\$38.10	\$2.47
G78-14	\$50.20	\$41.50	\$2.62
G78-15	\$51.55	\$43.85	\$2.69
H78-15	\$55.35	\$46.50	\$2.92
L78-15	\$59.95	\$49.95	\$3.21

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AGAWAM

Park And Recreation

A meeting for all women interested in a basketball program will be held 7:30 p.m. March 9 at the Senior Citizen's Center.

The purpose of the meeting is to determine interest in the new program and to discuss the feasibility of beginning this program.

All interested women are encouraged to attend. If interested but unable to attend call the Park and Recreation Department at 786-0400 Extension 57.

AGAWAM ADULT LEAGUE STANDINGS (as of Feb. 21)

	W	L
Maslanka's Five	6	1
Brewers	6	1
Jazz Five	5	2
Welcome Inn	3	4
Trinceri Realty	1	6
Agawam J'Cee	0	7

Sunday, March 2
1:15 Jazz vs Welcome Inn.
2:15 Trinceri vs J.C.
3:15 Maslanka's vs Brewers.

Sunday, March 9
1:15 Maslanka's vs Trinceri.
2:15 Brewers vs Jazz.
3:15 J.C. vs Welcome Inn.

Sunday, March 16
(Playoffs)
1:15 Team 1 vs Team 4
2:15 Team 2 vs Team 3.

Sunday, March 23
1:30 Winners of Semi-Finals.

Fashion Show At Bay Path

Bay Path Junior College will present a "Spring Into Summer" fashion show on Wednesday, March 5, at 8 p.m. in Mills Theatre, Carr Hall on the Longmeadow campus. The event, part of the College's People-To-People Entertainment Series, is open to the public with no charge for admission.

Modeling fashions from Blakes of Springfield and Enfield will be the students of Bay Path's Fashion Merchandising and Retailing Program. Commentator for the show will be popular TV personality, Mrs. Kitty Broman.

Maxwell Lester Dies In Hartford

MAXWELL R. LESTER
Maxwell R. Lester, 61, of 178 Walnut Street, Agawam, a former professional musician died Tuesday, Feb. 11 in Hartford Hospital. Born in Granville, New York, January 17, 1914, he lived in Chicopee before moving to Agawam five years ago. Between 1930 and 1940, Lester performed as an instrumental soloist, playing accordion, piano and guitar in clubs in Philadelphia, Baltimore and New Orleans. He was an Army veteran of World War II and worked 25 years as an airplane mechanic at Westover Air Force Base, and as an employee of the Springfield Armory. He was a member of the Agawam Baptist Church; the Belcher Lodge of Masons in Chicopee; and Cabot Chapter, Order of Eastern Star. He leaves his

wife, Eunice (Holloway) Lester; a son, Francis A. O'Leary of Agawam; 2 daughters, Mrs. Holly Lefebvre of Chicopee and Miss Faith Lester of Chicopee; a sister, Mrs. Pearl E. Fontain of Holyoke and a grandchild. The funeral was held Friday in Agawam Baptist Church with the Rev. Donald Morris and Rev. Benjamin Lochhart officiating. The bearers were; Francis O'Leary, Robert Massey, Robert Lefebvre, John Stulpin, William Stulpin and Clarence Holloway. Burial was in Springfield Street Cemetery, Feeding Hills. Donations may be made to the Joash Chest, c/o Oral Roberts, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dickinson-Streeter funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

Stephen B. Russell Named Director of Y Summer Program

Stan Kaslusky, Exec. for Youth Services for the Metropolitan Springfield YMCA announced today that Mr. Stephen B. Russell has been appointed Director of the Agawam Y Summer Program for the 1975 season.

In making the appointment, Kaslusky stressed that Russell's expertise will bring to Agawam the needed attention to strengthen the Day Camp, the Outdoor Center and the Tennis Program.

Russell, a graduate of Springfield College holds the

position of Associate Youth Director for the Metropolitan Association. In his present position he has been instrumental in developing the associations with teenagers in both the Springfield and West Springfield Communities.

Russell has had previous experience in the area of Day Camp Development. This needed position in the Agawam Community will allow additional time to be spent in promotion and delivery of a quality summer program, at the Agawam "Y".

Carol Cimme Teaching In Windsor, Conn.

Prof. Philip A. Faticianti, director of student teaching, AIC's School of Psychology and Education, has announced that 70 student teachers will be working in elementary and secondary schools throughout the Northeast during the second semester of the 1974-75 academic year.

Thirty-six of the AIC students are elementary education majors while 34

are secondary teachers. These students must complete the requirements for a major in a particular field of interest in addition to education courses before student teaching.

Teaching grade three at the Oliver Ellsworth School, Windsor, Conn., is Carol Cimme of 278 South St., Agawam. She is an elementary education major at AIC.

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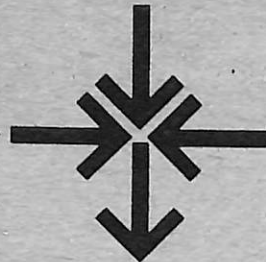
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AGAWAM CITIZEN

AGAWAM'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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THE AGAWAM CITIZEN

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(413) 786-7683

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Ric Sardella — News Editor

Tanya Doyle — Advertising Director

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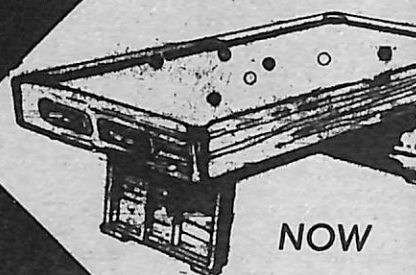
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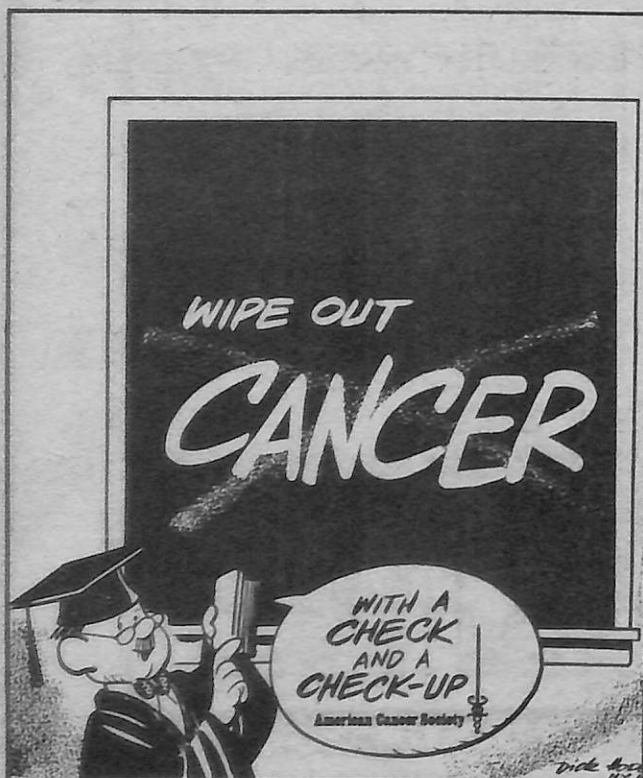
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PORK LOIN ASSORTED CHOPS
3 RIB END - 3 LOIN END
3 CENTER CHOPS

\$1.09 LB.

CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS OR ROAST

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FRESH PORK SHOULDER
ARM PICNIC

69¢ LB.

Rib Half Roast PORK LOIN **\$1.09 LB.**

Sirloin Half Roast PORK LOIN **\$1.19 LB.**

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VEAL PATTIES OUR BEST **89¢ LB.**

VEAL PATTIES OUR BEST **89¢ LB.**

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MEAT OR BEEF FRANKS **89¢ LB.**

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PRIMO ITALIAN SAUSAGE
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\$1.09 LB.

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LEAN GROUND BEEF
NOT MORE THAN 25% FAT

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SPAGHETTI - ZITI - LINQUINI - SHELLS - THIN SPAGHETTI - ROTELLE

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MEAT - MEATLESS - MUSHROOM - MARINARA

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Buitoni Clam Sauce RED OR WHITE **10.5 OZ. CAN 53¢**

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8 OZ. BOTTLE 39¢

COLLEGE INN CLEAR BROTH
13.5 OZ. CANS

4 CANS 89¢

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CARTER'S SPECIAL

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79¢

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FRESH FLORIDA GREEN POLE BEANS **3 \$1. LB.**

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25¢ off

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FREEZER QUEEN ENTREES VEAL PARM. TURKEY SALIS STEAK TURKEY CROQUETS **1 LB. PKG. 99¢**

TREE TAVERN PIZZA 16 OZ. PKG. **99¢**

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ROMAN PIZZA PEPPERONI - SAUSAGE OR HAMBURG **8 OZ. PKG. OF 4 79¢**

JENO'S PIZZA SNACK TRAY 7 1/4 OZ. PKG. **99¢**

SARA LEE MACARONI & CHEESE 8 OZ. PKG. **49¢**

RAGOZZINO'S CHEESE RAVIOLI 12 OZ. PKG. **79¢**

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16 OZ. PKG. TINTI'S MEAT SAUCE **69¢**

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CREAM CHEESE PHILADELPHIA 8 OZ. PKG. **39¢**

WHOLE MILK RICOTTA AXELROD 2 LBS. **\$1.59**

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ORANGE JUICE MINUTE MAID 100% FLORIDA 4 OZ. CARTON **79¢**

FIRM 'N' FRUITY YOGURT **4 1 OZ. CANS 89¢**

CRESCENT ROLLS PILLSBURY ONION & GARLIC 8 OZ. PKG. **65¢**

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FOOD MART WHITE BREAD 20 OZ. LOAVES **3 FOR \$1.**

CRACKED WHEAT BREAD TIP TOP 14 OZ. LOAF **53¢**

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KRISPY CRACKERS SUNSHINE 16 OZ. PKG. **59¢**

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**Annual
Town Report
1973 - 1974**

Supplement to Agawam Citizen
February 27, 1975

Annual Town Report Committee

Members of our Annual Town Report Committee have served for a number of years in preparing the Annual Town Report and are quite proud of their contribution. The extracting of reports from the various departments, collating, editing, and proof reading is a time consuming endeavor which sometimes escapes appreciation.

This year, the committee has broken with



tradition and published the Annual Town Report in the Agawam Citizen, in anticipation that more of our citizens will take the time to peruse the individual departmental reports.

Muriel Meunier
Geraldine Schilling
Henry Lawson
Louis Draghetti

Beautification Committee

During 1973 the Beautification Committee continued working toward its goal of making Agawam a more attractive community in which to live, work and play. To accomplish this goal the Committee has formed sub-groups within its membership concerned with plantings, community improvements and the Brady Village neighborhood park.

Planting: A permanent planting was installed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge with the assistance of the Feeding Hills Community Grange. Also, a permanent planting was made at the intersection of Poplar and Springfield Streets.

Flowers and bulbs were planted at the

also participated in the establishment of the Anne Sullivan Memorial at Feeding Hills Center by planting shrubs and flowers around the monument.

Community Improvement: The Committee continued its program to recognize those town businesses and industries which contribute to the beauty of Agawam. Award certificates were presented to the Ensign Cooper, Chez Josef, Agawam Funeral Home, WestBank, United Fabricants, Pioneer Agawam Bridge, the Federal Street triangle, the Town Hall, Feeding Hills Center, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge, the intersection of Elm and Main Streets, and the Feeding Hills Post Office. The Committee

Valley Plastics, Mish Silversmith, Feeding Hills Pharmacy, Dee Service, Curran Jones and MacDonalds.

Brady Village Park: During 1973 the Beautification Committee put forth a proposal for the construction of a neighborhood park to the rear of the Brady Village Housing Project on Springfield Street. A preliminary design and report was prepared by the Committee and submitted to the

Agawam Housing Authority and the state Department of Community Affairs. Both of these agencies approved the proposed park and the land will be transferred to the town. Upon approval of the project detailed plans

for the park were prepared by Landscape Architecture Dept. of Springfield Technical Community College. This was done as a class project under the guidance of Dan Berry, instructor. The Agawam Junior Women's Club has assisted the Committee with the project and to date has contributed over \$1600 for the purchase of playground equipment for the tot-lot area within the park.

The Committee's major efforts in 1974-75 will be centered around the completion of the neighborhood park. We do plan, however, to continue our existing programs and to complete another planting area in the Feeding Hills section of town.

Bicentennial Committee

The committee appointed by the Town Manager has held several meetings throughout the year in an effort to develop plans for our nations Bicentennial Celebration. We have been considering all types of activities that would be fitting for this type of event. As of this time we have decided that the following programs ought to be developed for the Town of Agawam.

A Colonial Costume Ball to be held October 11, 1975 at Chez Josef's.

A slide program on the history of Agawam is being researched by Mrs. Sylvia Deliso and James Thomas. They hope to produce a two phase slide historical documentary which will be available to the schools and any other

groups that might request them.

The Hockey Association would like to schedule games between the surrounding towns and they would be in charge of this type of activity.

We have been in touch with the Historical Society and we are encouraging a joint effort that will result in the marking of the older houses and also will produce a map that will serve as a guide to these locations.

We are thinking of putting together a time capsule that will be inserted at construction time at the new Senior Center.

The committee has been working most diligently in an attempt to find items of

commemorative value and would appreciate any help that any citizen of our town might give.

We are most interested in producing a town bicentennial seal and have been busy trying to select a fitting one.

The Beautification Committee was awarded a \$3,400.00 matching grant October 9, 1974, by the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission for the Brady Village Neighborhood Park.

We plan for July 1975 a town picnic. It is our hope that this opening of the festivities for '75' will engender the necessary enthusiasm to carry us forth to a most joyous participation in the activities of '76'.

Residents appointed to serve on the

Bicentennial Committee are; Mrs. Linda A. Kalesnik, chairperson; Arthur Leary Jr., vice-chairperson; Mrs. Sylvia Deliso, recording secretary; Mrs. Marion Collins, corresponding secretary; Harry Camyre, treasurer; and James Thomas, publicity. Also, Mrs. Dale Melanson, Leonard Hood, Albert Bessette, Mrs. Marcia Albano, Fred Affleck, Francis Milliken, Mrs. Janet Clark, Mrs. Alda Bedard and David Clouse.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Town Manager, Historical Society and the representatives of the various town groups and clubs for their interest and co-operation.

Consumer Advisory Commission

We herewith submit to you the report of the Consumer Advisory Commission for the Annual Town Report.

Agawam's Consumer Advisory Commission has concluded another 18 months of handling consumer complaints received from its residents. The role of the commission continues to be to protect the consumer by receiving residents consumer complaints and handling them directly or referring them to appropriate consumer agencies for action.

The commission is composed of five

members and includes the Sealer of Weights and Measures. Bi-monthly meetings have been held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The public is invited to attend all meetings.

The commission has addressed itself to a multiplicity of complaints involving; overcharges, incorrect billing, faulty or shoddy workmanship, dangerous products, magazine subscriptions, false advertising, illegal pricing, and services not delivered. All cases were followed to a just conclusion. Usually the complaint is taken care of by the person

or party to whom the complaint is directed, when brought to their attention by our commission. In other instances it has been necessary to direct them to the Attorney General's Office to other consumer oriented agencies.

A few cases handled by the commission resulted in town residents recovering losses and damages that were well in excess of one hundred dollars. Most complaints do not reach this magnitude in dollars but collectively they result in great savings to the

consumer.

The commission has printed and distributed an informative pamphlet for Agawam consumers. The pamphlet describes methods to resolve consumer complaints and also includes a directory listing all local agencies and departments and their telephone numbers.

The commission has also been in contact with our state senator and representative to elicit their support on consumer oriented legislation.

Board of Registrars

There were many changes and many new laws enacted in the area of voter registration as well as the election process itself.

We have held several precinct voter registration sessions and also visited the senior high school so that the eligible youth could become voters and participate in the election process. In addition to the regular voter registration sessions the office was open several evenings and six Saturdays so that people whose schedules don't permit

them to come in during the week, could become registered voters. The results have not been earth shaking; in fact they were very disappointing. The turn out was very poor.

We would like to impress upon people who have registered to vote but have changed their address or marital status to notify us prior to going to the polls on election days. Your cooperation will eliminate a great deal

of confusion and delay at the polling place on the day of election. It isn't necessary to appear in person. Changes and information can be handled by telephone.

The following is our total of registered voters broken down by party; Democrat 4935; Republican; 1551; Independent; 5506; Total 11,992.

Any resident citizen can register at the Town Clerk's office Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5-p.m.

In closing this report the Board of Registrars would like to extend the following service to any resident who desires to become a voter but is unable to get to the Town Hall or any of our precinct sessions because of physical disability, please call the Town Clerk's office and arrangements will be made so that you can become a voter. Please call us before the elections so that we can keep our appointments in time to qualify you for the election.

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the Town of Agawam in an effort to bring a balanced transportation system to the Town of Agawam has joined the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Transit Authority.

Although the Transit Authority has just been formed, the committee hopes to be a working part of a balanced transportation system for Western Massachusetts and the people of Agawam.

Historical Committee

In August, Mrs. Edith LaFrancis, town history author and Mrs. Richard Curry, committee chairman, met with Mr. Westman and informed him of the current progress of the history. Several chapters are complete and work is advancing on the remainder.

Whiting Street Fund

The Whiting Street Fund is a sum of money left to the town by Mr. Whiting Street. The income from this money is to be used to help qualified residents who are in need of temporary help. Applicants cannot be receiving Welfare or Veterans aid.

These funds are administered by two trustees and the town treasurer. All applicants who qualified have been given the help they needed this past year.

Town Manager's Annual Report



JAMES D. WESTMAN
Town Manager

The year 1973-74 was a year of challenge and change for the Town of Agawam. January, 1973, saw the change in form of government from the traditional Town Meeting- Board of Selectmen to the Council-Manager. This change in form of government brought many changes in the procedures and operations. Most of the officials were now appointed rather than elected. The legislative body, the Town Council, meets several times a month rather than several times a year. For the first time, all of the town's operating agencies and advisory agencies were brought under the supervision and direction of one individual, the Town Manager.

In addition to the changes within our own town government, the state had mandated that all cities and towns would now operate on a fiscal year budget and, in this initial stage of the change from calendar year to fiscal year, the year would be 18 months.

I believe the elected and appointed officials of the town responded to these changes by accepting the challenge presented and using the opportunity to develop the new form of government into a government which could and would respond to the needs of the residents of the community.

During this 18-month year, a Health Needs Study was conducted to provide a report which would be used as a guide in planning

the delivery of health services to the residents in the coming years. Under this program, the Board of Health has been increased from 3 to 5 members; an annual Health Fair was developed; the town joined the regional Home Care Corporation to provide basic services to the elderly; and the Visiting Nurses Association was brought into town; again, to expand the scope of services available to the residents.

In conjunction with several other communities, legal action was initiated to force the state to pay monies owed to the town for educational programs within the Police Department.

A Senior Center Study Committee was appointed. As a result of their report and efforts, with the Council's cooperation, we were able to obtain a commitment from the state for financial assistance in constructing a new Senior Citizen's Center.

A Land Needs Committee was appointed to determine what the town's land needs would

be during the next 10 years.

The Transportation Study Committee recommended participation in the Regional Mass Transit System.

Data Processing has been consolidated in cooperation with the School Department into a single entity which allows us to more effectively serve both the schools and the town's needs.

The Water Department has been placed on a self-supporting basis through revenues collected from the users.

A budget control system was introduced which requires department heads to more accurately project their annual programs and costs so that the Council can review the budgets and the respective program costs more effectively. The system also allows a tighter control on expenditures.

A 5-year projected Capital Budget Program was developed and submitted to the Council. This program should allow the Council the opportunity for long range capital planning and improve the Council's ability to stabilize capital expenditures.

There are many more challenges that lie ahead but I believe this first year has seen the Council, employees, and administration move ahead in a constructive and dedicated manner to meet the needs of the citizens and the challenges of the future.

Town Clerk



EDWARD A. CABA
Town Clerk

The period January 1, 1973 - June 30, 1974 — "CHANGING TIMES"

I think the above period will be long remembered by all of our townspeople. It was a period of soul searching, difficult decisions and finally, the change to the form of government we now will operate under.

FIRST

The so called "eighteen month" year was a task in itself, with the introduction of the new method of preparing the departmental budgets for each and every department.

SECOND

The new form of government which was adopted by you on November 16, 1971, became fully effective on January 1, 1973. There were many problems which confronted us during the change from the old to the new. I can honestly say that all of the problems were met head on and resolved, probably not to the satisfaction of everyone but, they were met and resolved so that the work that had to be done was indeed done. There was nothing left hanging. This was accomplished through the tireless efforts and dedication of each of the

councilors you elected and the Town Manager your Councilors appointed. Some of the Councilors have come and gone and I, personally, may have not agreed with all of them and still don't on every issue. However, I must say each and everyone of them have contributed a great deal in resolving problems that have confronted them for the good of our town.

There will be more problems coming before them with the growth of the town being what it is and the present state of the economy. It is my sincere hope and plea to you, the people, that you do participate in our town's endeavors to continue to make Agawam the best place to live. There is a great deal to be done and only with your cooperation and assistance can the Councilors, Town Manager and their staff deliver the best for the townspeople.

The following is the report on vital statistics recorded for the eighteen month period

beginning January 1, 1973 and closing on June 30, 1974:

BIRTHS	521
MARRIAGE INTENTIONS	493
MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED	489
MARRIAGES	527
DEATHS	367
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
RECORDED	490
TERMINATIONS	151
BUSINESS CERTIFICATES	
RECORDED AND COPIES	153
DOG LICENSES ISSUED	3264
Males	1681
Females	324
Spayed Females	1259
Kennels	31
SPORTING LICENSES ISSUED	4865

RECORDING FEES	\$12,420.65
POLE LOCATIONS	1,155.00
GAS STORAGE PERMITS	2,507.50

On behalf of my staff and myself, I want to thank the Town Council, Town Manager, Town Departments and all of our townspeople for the fine cooperation we have received. It is my sincere hope that the same warm feeling of cooperation and trust will continue.

Town Treasurer



DAVID C. GALLANO

Town Treasurer

Most of the Town Treasurer's work during the past 18 month fiscal year was taken up with routine duties as required by the General Laws, i.e., accounting for all receipts and payment of obligations as authorized by department heads, Town Accountant and the Town Manager.

However, more increasingly, additional duties relating to the town's finances have become a part of the treasurer's work load.

Attendance at most all of the meetings called by the Town Manager has become nearly mandatory, mostly for the purpose of keeping the finance department informed of

programs and proposals as they relate to financial aspects of those particular projects. These numerous meetings covered a varied list of subjects; sewer projects, water rates and fees, water expansion

programs, retirement and insurance benefits, salary increases, capital budget, training programs and numerous other meetings.

In addition it is required that the financial officer be present for discussion between the police, fire and custodial unions for negotiations and to participate in the drawing up of the agreed contracts. Other negotiations attended were those that pertained to sanitary landfill, waste disposal plant, rubbish pick-up, and in conjunction with the School Business Manager, negotiations with several data processing companies to set up a working program in that field. In all, it is estimated that the treasurer attended between 450 and 500 meetings during the eighteen month fiscal year.

Most important is the responsibility of assisting the Town Manager in the review of all department budgets. Numerous meetings, during the many days nights, and weekends, have accounted for untold hours of study, research, discussion and decisions as they relate to preparation of the town budget and the setting of the annual tax rate.

The data processing bureau, a division which comes under the jurisdiction of the

Finance Department, is now prepared to expand its field of coverage after having expended the past eighteen months resolving major problems of transferring all programs from the old system to the new Honeywell computer. It is also expected that during the next budget preparation period the total operating costs of the Data Processing Department will be under the town budget. It is presently being divided between the Town and School Department. The new method will bill all departments for their share of the costs.

Perhaps the most important phase of town finances is the picture of its bonded debt schedule. Seventy-five percent of our bonded debt, or \$4,890,000, can be attributed to school construction. Planned sewer, sewer plant and drainage installations will increase the bonded debt somewhat during the next two years.

Another major increase can be expected if proposed construction of the library and police station takes place.

We're looking forward to the suggested reorganization of the Finance department as proposed by the Town Manager.

Board of Assessors



FREDERICK A. DREW

Chairman Board of Assessors

The Assessors Office has experienced a drastic reduction in Building permits for fiscal 1974 due mostly to inflation and high interest rates.

During the past year we have had several Appellate Tax Board cases. We are still awaiting decisions on most of these. Some of the cases were settled between the appellant and the Assessors prior to going to trial. The Town Attorney played an important role in all of these cases. The most prominent case was that of the Stuart Amusement Co. on the Riverside Park property. This has been settled through 1974 with the Assessors not being completely satisfied but with the

thought that in the near future a professional real estate appraiser and a professional personal property appraiser will be engaged to reassess the Riverside Park property.

The work load has increased in the Assessors office as it has in all other departments. The Motor Vehicle Excise has reached an all time high with 20,000 bills having been issued for the period ending Dec. 31, 1973; although bills for 1973 are still being received from the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Real Estate accounts have increased to 8,800 with the total valuation of both real estate and personal property being in excess of \$170,000,000.

Police Department



R. KENNETH GRADY

Chief of Police

To the Citizens of Agawam, the Council and the Town Manager, I hereby submit the annual report for the Police Department.

1973 has followed the pattern of the growth of our town, once again showing an increase in the services rendered to the townspeople. Both categories listed according to the FBI classification system — Class I i.e., breaking and entering of residence and businesses, Larcenies, assaults and robberies and Class II, i.e. drugs, liquor and general nuisances, has continued to rise, reflecting the population increase. Comparing 1974 through October we show another 15 per cent increase in the above categories and all complaints over last year.

As part of our Community Relations Program we have met with reasonable success in the usage of officers of our department in speaking to town groups, the school system and on a person to person basis mainly in the areas of safety, drugs and the protection of homes and businesses. We have also initiated a specialized course one of the first west of California - with the co-operation of school officials, for high school students by our instructor for the immediate care of coronary arrest. Hopefully programs such as this will be permitted to expand in the future. We feel that it is a worthwhile endeavor to promote citizen concern in the awareness of today's total problems at home, at school, on the streets and at work.

Last year we were allowed to set up several new programs and/or ammend existing ones, which allowed us to achieve more efficient usage of our personnel, such as a recorder report system. This year we would

like to augment the recorder program to include an incoming telephone and radio monitor. At times with a single desk man it is all but impossible to maintain a proper log of all calls and complaints. The incorporation of this machine into our record system would permit the desk officer to respond to the incoming calls more quickly as well as more efficiently. It would also permit us to fulfill our duty to maintain full and complete records as required by law in most instances. While implementing this expansion would allow us to have the increased information it would also require additional office personnel, another clerk, this would be in keeping with our established policy of keeping the officers report making, out-of-service-time, to a minimum.

The police officers main mission is to serve and safeguard the community as well as protect individual rights. We serve PEOPLE not things. Patrol is one of the mainstays of this system along with the necessary subsequent investigations, collecting of evidence to the detection and apprehension of the offender. Training of the personnel and the updating and expansion of equipment must continue if we are to be expected to utilize the potential of our personnel. Police work is, and ought to be considered, a profession.

We do wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge, as in the past, the fine cooperation and support of the townspeople and continuing rapport of all town departments. By this collective endeavor we can all continue to make Agawam a better place to live, work, and play.

Civil Defense

The continuing program of maintenance and modernization of the C.D. two-way radio equipment has resulted in the F.M. conversion of four units under the able direction of Albert M. Jackson, communications officer.

Periodic tests and drills are conducted to ascertain proper functioning of the radio units, and to develop personnel skills under simulated emergency conditions.

A working arrangement has been concluded for use of the Provin Mountain repeater and its mobile personnel in times of

emergency to augment the town owned facilities.

Current state and Federal policy emphasizes Civil Preparedness in matters related to natural disasters and civil disorders. Frequent meetings are held under state auspices with the Red Cross, National Guard, and other neighboring community agencies to gain familiarity with available resources.

Our radiological training and monitoring equipment and apparatus are under the capable direction and custody of James Loomis Jr., principal at Granger School.

Land Needs Committee

In August of 1974, the Agawam Land Needs Committee was formed by Town Manager James Westman.

The primary purpose of this Committee is to study and develop a plan of land needs for public use during the next ten years.

The results of the committee's studies and recommendations will be incorporated into both the long range planning and the capital improvement programming for the town.

Appointed to the committee are Councilman Edmund Coffey, Director of Parks and Recreation, Jack Kunasek, Stanley Drewnowski, of the Planning Board, Walter Balboni, of the School Committee, Dorothy Wilson, of the Conservation Commission, Ruth E. Zucco, and George Hellquist.

This newly appointed Committee had three meetings within its first month of existence, and is well on its way to a successful program.

Department of Public Works



LEONARD C. BELCHER
Superintendent of Public Works

Fire Department



HARRY W. SCHNEIDER
Chief of Fire Department

I herewith submit to you the report for Agawam Fire Department.

The ultimate aim and purpose of our Fire Department is to protect your life and property from destruction. To do this, we have employed 53 officers and firefighters to be ready to answer any call where we may be able to assist combatting any problem or emergency that threatens you.

During the past budget period, we have instituted innovations which we feel also assist in the prevention of destruction and emergencies. Primarily, our Fire Inspection and Prevention Division has prepared a School Fire Drill Manual and we have made this available to all our teachers and School Department personnel. Along with this manual, was a course earmarked for fourth grade students, on home emergency evacuation and a Fire Prevention program.

This year marks a milestone in our departments' educational program, in as much as, four of our members have completed the fire science course at Springfield Technical Community College, and have received their degrees in fire science.

We also have 20 members of our department presently enrolled at Springfield Technical Community College in the fire science course.

Men of our department attended the fire prevention seminar in Philadelphia, Pa.; arson seminars in Worcester and the meeting of the Massachusetts Drill Instructor's Association on arson investigation.

During the year we presented the following programs on fire prevention for television, schools, clubs and nursing homes:

Hazards of swimming pools
Gasoline storage

Fireplace and wood burning stoves
Evacuation procedures
Clothing fires
Kitchen hazards
Miscellaneous fire hazards

The energy crisis and spiraling fuel prices have prompted many of our citizens to install alternative heating methods. We must caution the use of auxiliary heating devices as we have recently had some serious fires because of these heating methods.

The Firefighter's Auxiliary has raised funds for Tot Finders stickers, which were presented to all school children at the elementary schools to bring home and place on their bed room windows for identifying a child's room in the event of a fire.

The total value of property where fires occurred was well over two million dollars during the past budget period. However, losses sustained in these fires were approximately \$350,000.

Fatalities where fires were attributed in the cause of death were three, two from an aircraft and one from a dwelling.

Our future programs include manning a Fire Rescue vehicle, equipped to effectuate any emergency extradition of people from any accidental or dangerous situation.

The officers and men of the Fire Department stand ready to assist you in every way they can to make Agawam a better and safer place to live. We can be proud of the way they perform and execute their tasks during emergencies. For their achievements and excellent cooperation, I am truly grateful. I would be remiss if I did not also bring to your attention the cooperation we receive from all other town departments throughout the year.

While the fiscal year 1973-74 will be of historical importance to the Town of Agawam, as it was the first year of the Manager-Council government, it will also be remembered by the Department of Public Works for another reason. That year saw the retirement of Donald Campbell as Superintendent of the DPW. Mr. Campbell had worked 25 years with the department, serving as superintendent for the last eight. He was dedicated official and always gave his best effort to any job he tackled. Donald will always be well thought of and fondly remembered by his fellow employees in the department.

Replacing Mr. Campbell as Superintendent of the Department of Public Works is Leonard Belcher, a 25 year veteran with the department. Prior to his promotion, Mr. Belcher held the position of General Foreman.

The major accomplishment during 1973 was the completion of the Feeding Hills Trunk Sewer. This sewer will become the backbone of the town's sewer system and will allow us to extend sewer service into the western portion of town. The department has developed a program for the expansion of sewer service and any resident may inquire as to when sewers will be installed in their area.

Another major development in the area of sanitation in 1973, was the town's participation in a regional landfill at Bondi's Island for the disposal of our solid waste. With the new regulations governing the location and operation of landfills it was felt that it would be in Agawam's best interest, over the long term, to join a regional facility. Economy of scale will be realized and resource recovery and recycling will be feasible. The department began recycling in a small way with the past spring cleanup. All metal items were taken to a scrap metal dealer and limbs and branches were chipped for use in landscaping within the town.

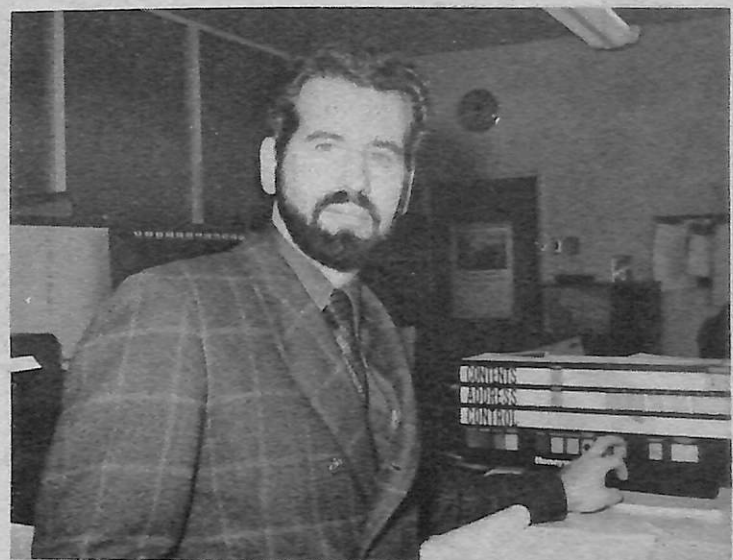
The department continued its street improvement program during the past fiscal year. Storm drains were installed on sections of Rowley and Cooper Streets in conjunction with their widening and reconstruction. A portion of Barry Street was surfaced with a treatment of oil and stone chips providing a better road while also reducing upkeep. The resurfacing of Springfield Street was completed, a project which began some 3 years ago. Other streets which were resurfaced are Hillcrest Avenue, George Street, Lealand Avenue, Franklin Street Extension and a portion of North West Street.

During the past year, the DPW personnel installed new water mains on Broz Terrace, Fruwirth Avenue, Cosgrove Street and a portion of Garden Street. These new mains have strengthened our water distribution system and improved fire protection in those areas.

In 1973 the City of Springfield, from whom Agawam buys all of its water, announced that it was doubling the price it charges for water. Their action, of course, forced this department to raise the rates it charges its customers. With the assistance of the engineering staff, new water rates and a new meter reading procedure were developed.

During the current year, the department will continue its street improvement program with the reconstruction of portions of Cooper Street and Shoemaker Lane being the major projects. Improvements to the water distribution system are proposed for the Garden Street and Meadow Street areas. Also, an extension of the Feeding Hills Trunk Sewer and the installation of the Three Mile Brook Pumping Station and Force Main are proposed. In addition, work on the first section of the North Street Deep Gutter sewer system should begin and sewer and drainage construction is scheduled for the section of Shoemaker Lane between Poplar and South Westfield Streets.

Data Processing



FREDERICK E. MESSIER JR.
Director Data Processing

During the past year the Data Processing Department underwent many major changes. Among these were the leasing of a 2020 Honeywell Computer to replace both the towns and the schools outdated IBM 1130. This was done at a substantial saving of tax dollars for a much more sophisticated system.

It was also decided to hire a Data Processing manager to unite the town and schools needs on the computer, along with an additional keypuncher. Among the many applications now being processed on the new Honeywell Computer are both the town and schools payroll, an appropriation accounting system for both town and schools, and a completely revised water and real estate billing system. Student scheduling was also done for both the high school and junior high school and all reports indicate that opening day of school went very smoothly. Daily and

state attendance along with grade reporting and Scholastic aptitude test scoring are also processed on the Honeywell Disc system. The students at Agawam high school are very fortunate in having the opportunity to have hands-on experience with the various programming courses being offered.

Some of the future plans for the Data Processing Department are an accounts receivable system for both water and real estate, a student Data Bank to store all information on a student from the time he enters kindergarden until he graduates from high school, and a complete inventory system is also under consideration.

It may be noted that neighboring towns have shown considerable interest in Agawam's data processing systems and it is probably only a matter of time before they implement similar systems.

Town Accountant

TOWN OF AG
BALANCE SHEET —
REVENUE AC



CAROL T. TAYLOR
Town Accountant

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ASSETS

Cash Revenue	\$950,810.09	
Invested Cash	250,000.00	
		\$1,200,810.09
Petty Cash Advance:		
School Lunch		31.00
Accounts Receivable:		
Taxes:		
Levy of 1969:		
Personal Property		2,332.85
Levy of 1970:		
Personal Property		1,875.18
Levy of 1971:		
Personal Property		5,751.32
Levy of 1972:		
Personal Property	5,073.81	
Real Estate	16,275.94	
		21,349.75
Levy of 1973:		
Personal Property	16,288.60	
Real Estate	146,504.99	
		162,793.59
Levy of 1974:		
Personal Property	12,042.67	
Real Estate	206,131.88	
		218,174.55
Motor Vehicle Excise:		
Levy of 1970	19,211.87	
Levy of 1971	22,793.70	
Levy of 1972	33,107.36	
Levy of 1973	48,695.66	
Levy of 1974	206,074.60	
		329,883.19
Farm Excise:		
Levy of 1972	70.62	
Special Assessments:		
Sewer and Storm Drain:		
Added to Taxes:		
Levy of 1973	109.80	
Committed Interest:		
Levy of 1973	37.83	
		147.63
Special Taxes:		
In Lieu of Taxes		1,204.60
Tax Titles and Possessions:		
Tax Titles	26,798.19	
Tax Possessions	7,273.78	
		34,071.97
Departmental:		
Dog Officer — Care and		
Destroying Dogs	1,134.00	
Sewer	8,280.00	
Highway	1,082.40	
Veterans' Benefits	5,651.12	
		16,147.52
Water:		
Liens Added to Taxes:		
Levy of 1972	337.92	
Levy of 1973	173.80	
Rates	16,563.90	
Miscellaneous Services	4,692.61	
		21,768.23
Aid to Highways:		
State	49,975.33	
County	24,987.83	
		74,963.16
Underestimate 1972:		
Overlay		1,225.33
Underestimate 1973:		
County Tax	16,311.13	
Western Hampden District		
Veterans' Service	936.10	
Regional Planning Assessment	51.19	
		17,298.42
		\$2,109,899.00

LIABILITIES and RESERVES

Payroll Deductions:

Group Hospitalization Insurance	\$ 10,343.70	
Group Life Insurance	534.68	10,878.38

Guarantee Deposits:

Board of Appeals	288.83	
Zone Change	416.39	
Town Council Advertisement	131.12	
Misc. — Bid Proposals etc.	1,000.00	
Water Guarantees	1,000.00	
Planning Board-Sub-Division Forfeitures	2,347.64	5,183.98

Agency:

Employees Group Insurance Dividends	1,913.48	
Medicare Premium in Escrow	545.20	
Tailings — Unclaimed Checks	82.13	2,540.81

Gifts:

Conservation Fund	445.00	
Police Ambulance Jay-Cees	8,150.00	
Edwin L. Cook Sr. & Edwin L. Cook Jr. Memorial Fund	62.92	
Parks-Pre School Program	41.67	
Council on Aging	385.30	
Library	45.52	
Josephine M. Danahy Estate — Library Purposes	126.08	126.08
Josephine M. Danahy Estate — School Purposes	858.25	10,114.74

Trust Fund Income:

Desire A. Pyne Charity	785.73	
Whiting Street Worthy Poor	1,607.55	
Mary Phelon School	1,683.93	
Mary Phelon Library	205.60	
Davis Library	4,038.45	
Old Cemetery	391.35	
Feeding Hills Old Cemetery: General Care	73.82	
Perpetual Care	115.90	
Maple Grove Cemetery	383.64	
Lydia Roberts Cemetery	365.21	
Faolin Pierce Scholarship	3,693.46	
Clara H. Williams Nursing Scholarship	183.04	
Charles Palmer Davis Library	16.95	13,544.63

Federal Grants:

Schools: Public Law No. 89-10 Title I: Special Program for Educationally Disadvantaged	8,059.80	
Title II: Acquisition of Library Resource Material	9,141.50	
Public Law No. 85-864 Title III: National Defense Education	6,686.73	
Public Law No. 91-230 Education of Handicapped	3,774.97	
Smith Hughes-George Barden Vocational Education	2.94	27,665.94

Revolving Funds:

Schools: Lunch Program	16,296.22	
Athletic Association	791.62	
Adult Evening	2,767.32	
Lost and Damaged Books	736.74	
Industrial Art Supplies	652.86	
Council on Aging — Title III Old American Act	1,416.15	
Police — Outside Duty Work Detail	2,678.48	
Fire — Outside Duty Work Detail	96.00	25,435.39

Appropriation Balances:

Election & Registration — Officers	1,903.85	
Printing	2,855.38	
Police — Study Survey	18,000.00	
Health — Mosquito Control	4,985.00	
Sanitation — Miscellaneous Fees	13,236.46	
Vehicles	310.00	
Rowley Street Storm Drain	1,502.87	
North Street Engr. Study — Deep Gutter Area Sewer	7,000.00	
Three Mile Brook Sanitary Sewer-Engineering Services	3,000.00	
North Street Deep Gutter - Shoemaker Lane Sanitary Sewers	14,000.00	
1961 Chapter 90 Construction	5,000.00	
1972 Chapter 90 Construction	2,798.51	
1973 Chapter 90 Construction	23,761.30	23,761.30
1973 Chapter 90 Maintenance	7,000.06	
North Street Sidewalk (North Westfield to Sylvan Lane)	4,982.30	
2 Three Ton Dump Trucks	7,683.81	
Engineering — Photo and Precision Equipment	250.00	
Veterans' Benefits	6,000.00	
Land Taking — Administration Building Complex	1,000.00	
Land Taking — School Purposes	900.00	
Land Taking — Heirs D. Crowley	150.00	
Elbert Road Easement	2.00	
Maynard Street Easement	1.00	
Silver Street Easement	1.00	
Land Taking — Sewer Purposes	10,301.06	
Land Taking — James Street — G.L. Chapter 79	7,242.00	
Surety Bonds & Insurance — (1973 Audit)	10,000.00	
Previous Years Bills	2,883.53	
Agawam Business & Industrial Development	30,000.00	
Town By-Law Compilation and Printing	4,500.00	
Silver Street 16" Water Main	1,554.13	
Capital Improvements: Acquisition of Land	5,000.00	5,000.00
Capital Improvements	3,000.00	200,804.26

Overestimates 1972:

State Recreation Areas	8,832.87
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Reserve Fund — Overlay Surplus

	3,891.61
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Overlays Reserved for Abatements:

Levy of 1969	2,876.05	
Levy of 1970	38,368.37	
Levy of 1971	10,648.24	
Levy of 1973-74	93,991.31	145,883.97

State Aid Reserved for Approp.

Library	8,143.88	
Highway: Chapter 1140 Section 22	148,903.00	
Chapter 1140 Section 20	89,342.00	246,388.88

Revenue Reserved Until Collected:

Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise	329,883.19	
Farm Excise	70.62	
Special Assessment	147.63	
Special Tax	1,204.60	
Tax Title and Possessions	34,071.97	
Departmental	16,147.52	
Water	21,768.23	
Aid to Highways	74,963.16	478,256.92

Reserve for Petty Cash Advance

	31.00
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Certified "Free Cash" 1973

	263,861.70
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Surplus Revenue

	666,583.92
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TOWN OF AGAWAM
BALANCE SHEET — JUNE 30, 1974
NON-REVENUE ACCOUNTS

ASSETS		LIABILITIES and RESERVES	
Non-Revenue Cash	\$ 118,072.83	Unexpended Balances:	
Aid to Sewers and Sewerage Disposal Facility:		Connecticut River Interceptor	
State Allotment	\$ 355,500.00	Sewer	\$ 314.48
Aid to Sewerage System —		Memorial Park, Poplar, etc.	
South Main Street Area		Interceptor Sewer	328.26
Federal Aid	24,566.40	Feeding Hills Fire	
	380,066.40	Station No. 2	11,016.92
		Water Distribution	218.85
Temporary Loan —		Feeding Hills Junior	
Sewerage Disposal Facility		High School	45,648.55
State Reimbursement	30,000.00	Sewer, Sewerage Systems —	
		South Main Street Area	55,990.66
Loans Authorized:		Sewers, Sewerage Systems	
Sewerage System —		Disposal and Treatment	
South Main Street Area	94,000.00	Facilities	4,555.11
Sewerage System and			\$ 118,072.83
Disposal Facilities	1,600,000.00	Temporary Loan —	
City of Springfield		Sewerage Disposal Facility	
Treatment Plant	450,000.00	State Reimbursement	30,000.00
North Street and			
Shoemaker Lane Sewers	650,000.00	Loans Authorized and Unissued	2,824,000.00
Three Mile Brook Sewer —			
Engineering Services	30,000.00	Revenue Reserved Until Collected:	
	2,824,000.00	Aid to Sewerage Disposal	
		Facility	355,500.00
		Aid to Sewerage System —	
		South Main Street Area	24,566.40
			380,066.40
			\$3,352,139.23
	\$3,352,139.23		

TOWN OF AGAWAM
BALANCE SHEET — JUNE 30, 1974
FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING

ASSETS		LIABILITIES and RESERVES	
Revenue Sharing Cash	\$ 76,019.87	Reserved for Appropriation:	
Public Law 92-512		Public Law 92-512	\$ 76,019.87
Authorized	61,878.10	Public Law 92-512 Authorized:	
		Unexpended Balances:	
		Town Manager — Vehicles	\$ 3,000.00
		Fire — Building Improvements	1,755.24
		Safety Equipment	450.00
		Police — Vehicles	16,412.78
		Sanitation — Building	
		Improvements	10,000.00
		Dump Rent — Landfill Contract	27,910.08
		Parks — Building Improvements	1,650.00
		Youth Commission Expense	700.00
			61,878.10
	\$137,897.97		\$137,897.97

TOWN OF AGAWAM
BALANCE SHEET — JUNE 30, 1974
TRUST AND INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

ASSETS		LIABILITIES and RESERVES	
Trust and Investment Funds:		In Custody of Treasurer:	
Cash and Securities:		Desire A. Pyne	
In Custody of Treasurer	\$280,070.19	Charity Fund	\$ 2,777.24
In Custody of Trustees	7,688.31	Faolin Pierce	
		Scholarship Fund	21,457.45
		Mary A. Phelon	
		School Fund	5,016.17
		Mary A. Phelon	
		Library Fund	701.93
		Clara H. Williams	
		Nursing Scholarship Fund	629.78
		Maple Grove Cemetery	
		Fund	2,177.06
		Feeding Hills Old Cemetery	
		Funds:	
		General Care	255.37
		Perpetual Care	466.84
		Old Cemetery Fund	1,275.43
		Charles Palmer Davis	
		Library Fund	57,129.69
		Charles Palmer David	
		Library Fund	5,736.27
		Stabilization Fund	182,446.96
			\$280,070.19
		In Custody of Trustees:	
		Whiting Street Worthy	
		Poor Fund	7,137.94
		Lydia B. Roberts	
		Cemetery Fund	550.37
			7,688.31
	\$287,758.50		\$287,758.50

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
BALANCE SHEET — JUNE 30, 1974
DEFERRED REVENUE ACCOUNTS**

Apportioned Assessments Not Due:

Sewer and Storm Drain	\$8,239.23
Sidewalk	40.00

Apportioned Sewer and Storm Drain

Assessments Revenue:

Due 1974	\$984.87
Due 1975	940.20
Due 1976	934.60
Due 1977	800.64
Due 1978	674.78
Due 1979	644.11
Due 1980	501.53
Due 1981	474.00
Due 1982	457.50
Due 1983	437.50
Due 1984	415.50
Due 1985	349.00
Due 1986	215.00
Due 1987	155.00
Due 1988	150.00
Due 1989	105.00
	\$8,239.23

Apportioned Sidewalk Assessments

Revenue:

Due 1974	10.00
Due 1975	10.00
Due 1976	10.00
Due 1977	5.00
Due 1978	5.00
	40.00

\$8,279.23

\$8,279.23

Council On Aging



MARGAETE TAEGER
Director Council For Aging

The Council on Aging is continuing to grow and progress. The program now offered at the Senior Center is entirely different in both scope and purpose than it was just a few years ago. We have progressed from the period in which we merely operated as a social center and are in the process of realizing our goal of total community service to the elderly. Our staff works in close cooperation with the other community agencies to insure that the senior citizens of Agawam can make good use of available community resources.

The growing participation in activities sponsored by the Council on Aging is traceable to increased publicity and expansion of existing facilities. In addition, 784

senior citizens have either come into the Center for the first time or have been contacted by the community aide.

The Title III Grant now in its third and final year — in the amount of \$17,749.76 enables the council to provide direct social and rehabilitative services to the community outside of the confines of the Senior Center. The full time staff of the Council of Aging consists of a Senior Center director, a community aide and a bus driver. A part-time dispatcher was added to handle the increased demand for the bus, and a second, part-time bus driver will be added in the near future to help with the increased Meals on Wheels program. In the afternoon a Vista worker

assists visiting the shut-ins and arranging social activities.

Lack of adequate transportation often contributes to complications of health, medical, social and subsistence needs. This fact was the major force behind requesting Title III funds in 1972 for the purchase of our first minibus, seating 8. The evergrowing demand for transportation encouraged us this year to request funds, under the Title III Grant, to buy a larger bus which will seat 12 passengers. This request has been granted, and the new bus should be in operation soon.

Outreach, information and referral has become a major service at the Senior Center. Remaining hidden from the social life and knowledge of their community, many older people do not know of the opportunities available. Therefore, it is desirable to seek out these citizens of our town to inform them of these services, and to tell them where they can call for help. This program is called Outreach and necessarily encompasses an information and referral service. It is the role of the community aide to visit all Agawam residents over 60 years of age to determine the specific needs of the senior community as they exist.

Our lunch programs which are given in conjunction with the school lunch program average 41 meals when served at the Center, and 10-15 when served at the Granger School. Total number of lunches served last year was 4232.

Our Meals on Wheels program has more than doubled, the present average being 17 meals per day, up from 7 last year. A total of 3378 meals were delivered.

Under the direction of the Health Department, two Flu shot clinics were offered at the Centr. The participation in the monthly Hypertension Clinic has grown increasingly popular, and average attendance is now over 110.

Lifeline-Telephone reassurance provides a daily telephone contact for an older person who might otherwise have no outside contact

for long periods of time. This service is coordinated by the Senior Center staff and manned by volunteers.

Our regular activities include art classes (with an attendance of 8-10); bowling (at Riverside) with an attendance of 15; card parties with an attendance of 36; ceramics with an attendance of 30; and knitting with an attendance of 30. On Wednesdays the very active Men's Club (appr. 45 members) comes in for pool and cards. During the winter months we also offered sewing classes (6-8 attending) and woodworking.

In addition to these regularly scheduled activities, several bus trips were taken during the fiscal year 1973-74; 3 trips to Fenway Park; a trip to Provincetown, Ma. and one to Rockport, Ma. a Christmas trip to Plainville-Hartford, and two trips to the Chateau de Ville for matinee shows and dinner. A new feature was our three picnics during the summer. They were well received.

In November the Senior Citizens held their annual bazaar. Throughout the year classes plan and make things for this event. As usual, this bazaar was a big success, indicative of the high quality of the finished craft products.

The Agawam Clubs have been very responsive to the needs of the Senior Center and have hosted enjoyable and successful parties throughout the year. All of the parties included refreshments and entertainment and were attended by more than 100 seniors. Our thanks go to the Junior Women's Club for their Christmas dinner at the Center; to the Lions for their Sunday dinner, to the VFW for their dinner party, and to the Sacred Heart Church for their picnic with bingo games. The American Legion Auxiliary hosted two Friday afternoon card parties at the Center which were much appreciated.

The Council would like to thank all people and organizations who have helped us during the year. Their generosity and support play a decide role in making our Senior Center a success.

Department of Veterans' Services



JOHN J. MCCARTHY
Director of Veterans' Service

Veterans Service Department serviced over 5000 veterans and dependents during the past year. This office services the Western Hampden District consisting of Agawam, Southwick, Granville and Tolland.

Services consist of filing claims, for pension, for veterans, widows and dependents, bonus applications, financial assistance, medical assistance at Soliders Home and

Veterans Administration hospitals, and many other services.

Any veteran or dependent may get in touch with us by calling, Town Hall, Agawam 786-0400, extension 36 or 37.

Due to the increased work-load in the District we suggest calling for appointment as this will expedite our ability to help with your problems.

Board of Appeals

During the past eighteen months your Board of Appeals had a busy schedule processing applications by forty-one petitioners seeking relief from the zoning by-laws. Eight requests were denied and one

voluntarily withdrawn. Thirty two petitioners were granted relief, subject to various restrictions imposed by the board, in order to protect the best interests of the neighborhood and the community.

Town Engineer



JOHN STONE
Town Engineer

The first year of operation of the Manager-Council form of government saw increased responsibility for the Engineering Department and was a very active period.

The department continued to provide all engineering services required by the highway, Water and sanitation divisions for their various programs. This included design and layout of sections of Rowley and Cooper Streets for reconstruction, the extension of Maynard Street into the State Pool and the design and layout of drainage systems on

Cooper and South West Streets. The department also prepared plans and specifications for and supervised the construction of a storm drain on Rowley Street, a water main on Silver Street and a sidewalk on North Street.

Under the present government the Engineering Department has continued to work closely with the Planning Board. We send a representative to all their meetings, review all subdivision plans and inspect the construction of roadways and utilities. In the

review of proposed subdivisions the department attempts to see that the recommendations contained in the sewage and drainage studies are followed. Also, during the past year we developed new standards of roadway and utility design and construction which were included in the new Subdivision Rules and Regulations.

In 1973-74 the department participated in the formulation of the agreements negotiated with the City of Springfield for the use of Bondi's Island Sewage Treatment Plant and Sanitary Landfill. As a result of the Sewage Treatment Agreement we prepared a Sewer Use Ordinance which has been adopted by the Town Council. The department also participated in the preparation of a new contract for the collection of rubbish.

Working with the Water Department, the engineering staff developed a new system for water meter readings; a new rate schedule for water usage and a new connection charges. The new reading system will bring in Water Department income more frequently, decreasing borrowing, and will avoid peak work loads for several town departments. The new water rates and connection charges were necessary to allow the Water Department to operate on a self-sustaining basis and to cover the increased cost of water and materials with which we are faced.

During the past year the department developed a Capital Budget program for the extension of the sanitary sewer system and

the construction of storm drains. Similar programs will be developed for street improvements and with the completion of the Water Distribution Study, for water system improvements.

The Engineering Department participated in acquiring Federal Flood Insurance eligibility for Agawam and in the formulation and preparation of the Town's plans for the use of the Training School property which were presented to the county commissioners. We also represented the town on the Technical Committee of the Regional Mass Transit Study.

In an effort to keep up to date with the latest developments, practices and regulations members of the Engineering Department attended meetings, courses or seminars on leadership and communication, flood protection and flood plain management, OSHA rules and regulations standby electric power, wetland protection, civil service job classification, planned unit development and labor relations and collective bargaining.

We expect the current year to be as busy as 1973. The subdivision construction continues to be heavy despite a decline in housing starts. Scheduled projects to be handled by the Engineering Department include, sanitary sewer on Shoemaker Lane, storm drainage on Shoemaker Lane, Royal and Randall Streets and High Street, a water main on Garden Street, and sidewalks on Springfield Street and Perry Lane.

Planning Board



NATALIE C. GEORGE
Chairman Planning Board

After the manager form of government became effective in January 1973, existing Planning Board members continued to serve until replaced by appointment. Chairman Charles Calabrese, John Burns and Paul Fieldstad served until May when Arthur Fuchs of Alfred Court, Lawrence O'Connell of North Street and Mrs. Natalie George of Debra Lane were seated. Chester Nicora and Albert Bonavita served until August when Steven Kitrosser of Pineview Circle and Stanley Drewnowski of Parkedge Drive were appointed. Mr. O'Connell moved from town in

December and the vacancy was filled by Robert Bergin of North West Street. Mr. Fuchs was reappointed in December for a five year term. With a totally new board taking office during the second year of peak real estate activity, it has, at times, been a trying experience for developers and board members alike! There were 56 regularly posted meetings and 41 public hearings in the eighteen months.

Under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 81, there were 91 submissions of plans during the period. Sixty five

parcels of land were divided with approval that subdivision control was not required. Six parcels were denied endorsement. Twenty submissions were approved for development as residential subdivisions, giving a potential of 815 new homes.

Roads to serve two industrial areas were approved for design and construction plans: Hunt Street for the Farm Bank and Ramah Circle South for Burd Manufacturing Company.

New rules and regulations for the subdivision of land were adopted effective March 7, 1974. These are more inclusive of work required by the contractor including planting of street trees, installing street light bases, and preparation of the map required for submission to the Council for street acceptance. Guarantees for performance of sewage pump stations are stricter. The options for design and construction of streets is increased to four, depending on soil conditions and the number of cars proposed to use the street daily. Environmental studies and financial impact statements are now required. Also, a preliminary plan must be approved before a definitive plan is submitted, to work out some of the problems before substantial money is invested in the site. Copies of the regulations are available from the Town Clerk's office.

Under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Municipal Planning and Chapter 40A, Zoning, the board began a comprehensive review of existing zoning in Agawam. An ordinance to remove residential subdivision development from business and agricultural zones was defeated by the Town Council. An ordinance to regular land development and use in the Flood Plain was prepared according to the Federal Insurance Act; public hearing was held and the ordinance returned to the Council for action. An ordinance to regulate and restrict signs in all zones was drawn and a public hearing held; with the assistance of additional material supplied by the sign industry, the ordinance was redrafted and returned to the Council. Petitions to the Council to allow the Planning Board to proceed with the drafting of or-

dinances for site review of development in business and industrial areas and in the A-3 (multi-family housing) district have not been returned to the board.

The board has been working on a complex ordinance to allow Planned Unit Development by Special Permit for mixed residential types, and residential coordinated with business or industrial uses utilizing clustered building and commonly owned open space concepts. The draft is waiting the outcome of state enabling legislation. A 360 acre proposal for a PUD residential development was submitted by Tobacco Farms Realty for land off South West Street. The proposal is waiting enabling legislation and a better financial climate.

Twelve zone change petitions to amend the ordinances were studied with public hearings. The board's recommendations were sent to the legislative body who granted four, and denied eight.

Under the zoning ordinances, elevations for six business or industrial buildings were approved for general appearance and permanence of structure, and landscaping.

The board is co-sponsoring, with the Conservation Commission, an inventory of natural resources for town preservation (TAG committee). Members are also active in coordinating the work of the Transportation Committee and the Land Study Committee. Mrs. George serves the town as Commissioner to the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission through which agency the town's activities and plans are coordinated with regional plans.

For the next eighteen months, the board has been empowered by the Council to work with Brown, Donald and Donald, Municipal Planning Consultants, of Farmington, Connecticut. With the cooperation of other boards, we will analyze and program development for the town on a five year impact plan and a long range goal plan. We will be initiating citizen questionnaires and meetings to develop the community's identity and policies which will translate those concepts into future development patterns. Following this, the zoning map and ordinances will be revised for adoption by the Council.

Housing Authority

The Agawam Housing Authority, subsidized by the state, operates two elderly housing projects: Country View Apartments in Feeding Hills and Colonial Haven Apartments in Agawam Center for elderly persons of low income; also a veterans' project: J. J. Brady Village for veterans of low income. To be eligible for elderly housing a person must be 65 years of age, a U.S. citizen and of low income. To be eligible for the veterans' housing the applicant must be a veteran or the family of a veteran and of low income. The veterans' apartments are all family units.

During the past year many bathrooms were remodeled at Brady Village and more are expected to be done in the coming year. All ranges, which were 25 years old, were replaced with new ones. Excess land behind Brady Village was turned over to the Town of Agawam, who with the generosity and help of

the Jr. Women's Club and the Beautification Committee, will create a Mini Park to be utilized by town residents.

The exterior of all buildings at Colonial Haven are in the process of being painted. With the help of boys who worked through the Summer Youth Program many odd jobs were accomplished, such as caulking of buildings, repairing sidewalks, tarring gutters, painting crosswalks and parking areas and landscaping.

The Authority has been working since 1971 to get a third elderly project built in Agawam. We have been told by the state that this project will probably go out to bid this fall. It is to be located on land already purchased off Wright Street and will consist of 64 garden type units. Plans are in the works to construct a Senior Citizens' Center within the confines of the housing project which will be for the enjoyment of all elderly citizens of Agawam.

Liquor Commission

In the nearly eighteen months the Agawam Liquor Licensing Commission has been in office, the members have met at least once every month at regular meetings and conducted many hearings.

Licenses in force: (both seasonal and year long) eight package stores, five drug stores, 14 clubs, two innholders, 15 all-alcohol victualers, two veterans clubs, 13 seasonal lounges, with an income to the town of \$25,775.

While we commiserate with those seasonal licensees who are being shut down from December 1 until April 1, this is in accordance with the state law. However, we are causing a bill to be filed with the legislature, with the

consent of the Town Council, so that all seasonal licenses may be changed to full, year-long licenses with certain requirements in the transfer.

Department of Weights and Measures



LOUIS D. DRAGHETTI
Sealer of Weights and Measures

I herewith submit to you the report for the Department of Weights and Measures;

Modern weights and measures departments encompass many areas of consumer protection. Generally sealers and inspectors concern themselves with assuring customers accurate weighing and measuring devices, and full and just quantity delivered by them. Weighing and measuring devices have evolved to include charts with price determinations and price displays. Consequently, sealers and inspectors must also certify correct price for a given quantity at a unit price.

During the energy crisis, and the current spiraling inflationary market, calls and complaints have been received by us inquiring and questioning the accuracy of goods, and merchandise received by customers over weighing and measuring devices.

In the past budget period with the town prosecutor, we processed court cases involving tampering with gasoline devices for fraudulent purposes, using unsealed measuring devices, door to door sales, neglecting to supply a retail outlet with scales to weight meat products, and sustained convictions on all these cases.

Town ordinances require our Inspector of Weights and Measures be assigned as a member of our Consumers' Advisory Commission. In this capacity we have been able to resolve a good many complaints and serve as

the commissions investigative officer.

We have also been assigned to process all energy complaints referred to us. During the energy crisis we have been somewhat successful in assisting to resolve some of the allocation problems. Needless to say, we were involved in a difficult time due to policy, regulative, and administrative changes in state and federal level energy offices at the height of the crisis.

The Massachusetts Legislature passed legislation which provides for local sealers to enforce unit pricing laws and regulations. Unit pricing information was instituted to assist shoppers to make better value comparisons between brands, and if utilized by shoppers allows quick price comparison.

Unit price enforcement coupled with our present responsibilities and rapidly expanding business community in Agawam are straining the facilities of our weights and measures department. In order to keep pace with the paper work we have requested assistance through the town Manager for clerical help under the Federally funded PEP program.

National recognition was given to us by my election to vice chairman of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. Election to this position is the highest tribute and compliment which can be paid to local sealers of weights and measures in the United States.

Building Department



JOSEPH CONTE
Building Inspector

The following is a general resume of the activities that have taken place in your Building Department during the 1973-74 budgetary period.

This period of time was a banner year as far as construction was concerned. The town experienced a rapid development of living units comprised of 390 single family dwellings and 179 multi dwelling units at a valuation of \$10,683,700. Commercial permits were issued at a total valuation of \$38,956,312 (Sewage Disposal Plant \$35,000,000. non-taxable), 315 miscellaneous permits were issued such as additions, alterations, pools, etc. The total valuation of all permits issued for this period of time is \$50,719,237.

The growth of our community has brought increased responsibilities to the Building Department. New residents of the town have found the Building Department an aid in assisting them in solving problems of settling in their new community.

The services rendered by this department could not have been as efficiently rendered if the Town Council, in their foresight, had not approved the appointment of a Deputy Building Inspector.

A new State Building Code known as Chapter 802, Acts of 1972, will be effective January 1, 1975. This code is a maximum

mandatory building code which will supercede every code within the state. The jurisdiction control of the code has been placed in the state authority. If there is any conflict with local zoning bylaws or ordinances the state code shall control. We feel the unifying of the building code is a forward step. We do not agree with the fact that the state now has more authority in your building department than the citizens have. At this point the town pays the Building Inspector but the state tells him what to do. But, like our new government experiencing minor difficulties in the transitional period, we do expect that the Building Department will be experiencing difficulties in transferring to the new code requirements. One of the main changeovers will be the inspection of all school buildings and public buildings which we feel have been neglected in the last seven years. These inspections alone will increase the workload of this department by some 450 hours.

The Building Department is able to serve all walks of life in protecting the health and safety for the citizens of the town. We will in the future, as in the past, be a common denominator to assist our citizens in promoting their safety, health and general welfare.

School Maintenance Department



JULIAN L. MIODOWSKI
Supervisor of School Maintenance

PAINTING

In the 1973-74 budget period, the School Maintenance Department completed the following:

The interior of Granger School has been painted. Twenty one (21) classrooms, halls, offices, cafeteria and kitchen ceiling and walls.

Robinson, Clark and Phelps were also completed except for some ceilings.

Senior High - Teachers cafeteria, parking lines, cafeteria and five (5) classrooms. A total of fifty (50) classrooms plus several halls and offices.

All of Clark's exterior was completed.

OTHER MAINTENANCE

We seal coated or re-roofed the following schools; Phelps, Danahy, Peirce, Middle.

New oil burners were installed at Peirce and Granger schools.

New oil burner and boiler was installed at Senior High School. Fire Boxes were rebuilt at Clark School.

New Lights installed at Senior High- Kitchen, AVA Room, TV Room, Danahy-halls; Phelps-eight classrooms; Robinson-kitchen and office; Five (5) emergency lights Middle School.

Additional wiring; Danahy, Senior High. New Rooms and office, Television room and Guidance room.

New cabinets and sinks; three (3) rooms had sinks and cabinets installed for art.

Retiling and refinishing floors; Clark, all corridors and cafeteria; Peirce, cafeteria, Middle, Wood working shop.

New doors, Robinson, one set; Granger, one set; Middle, four (4) sets.

Hot water installed in toilet areas at Peirce.

This along with the painting and repairing of desks and chairs plus daily maintenance and care of nine (9) buildings and one hundred five (105) acres of grounds.

Due to a close watch on our heat loss and close supervision of oil usage, we saved over 100,000 gallons of oil. With an increase of over 100 per cent in price we were able to stay within our budget.

Department of Parks and Recreation



JOHN KUNASEK

Director of Parks and Playgrounds

Our Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to promoting and instituting programs that not only help our youths in athletic and physical developments, but also toward the development of physical, cultural, and recreational interests of all our citizens.

Through the efforts of the Agawam Hockey Association and the Agawam Athletic Association, uniforms and incidentals were supplied to teams which competed in programs promoted by these associations for our youths, in baseball, hockey, basketball, softball and soccer. Our department organizes these teams, provides playing

facilities, including game ice, and schedules officials and instructors for each event. The Agawam Athletic Association, also completely uniformed and obtained sponsors and coaches for boys football teams, games were played at the high school field. Boys soccer and basketball were organized with 300 boys registered. We started our ice hockey this season with 12 teams registered in the Greater Springfield Area.

The one day pre-school playground program originally started through the efforts of our Assistant Recreation Supervisor in 1973, has progressed to a two day program

with over 40 children participating in these activities. A highlight of this program was a trip to Laughing Brook with all these children in attendance.

Summer athletics in girls softball; three leagues were formed that included 19 teams. Two leagues of 13 to 15 and 14 to 16 age groups were also formed in suburban baseball. Four basketball teams were organized and they played a total of 36 games. Again, because of the increasing number of youths participating in sports, the Agawam Athletic Association is constantly active in procuring sponsors and coaches.

The girls soccer league supported four fine teams with weekly scheduled games. We are proud of the progress in programs regarding girls athletics which have become an important part of our playground activities and are superbly organized under our Assistant Recreation Supervisor.

We can readily boast of our playground summer program which included, in addition to Arts and Crafts, special events such as; fishing trips, picnics, watermelon eating contests and hikes. Special events were highlighted with very popular trips to Boston Red Sox Games, Mountain Park, New England Aquarium, Look Park, Old Stur-

bridge Village, and Agawam Teen Theater. Everyone who attended the field trips had an enjoyable time and also learned through the educational exposure provided by each trip.

Tennis lessons were offered to children and adults. Due to the number of people participating in tennis, we had to expand on both the adults and the childrens tennis to a daytime schedule. Our tennis season ended with a highly competitive tournament which was held in August for adults and children of Agawam.

Adults participating in our programs have,

surprisingly, increased over the past two years. We are amazed at the interest displayed by the number of women in exercise and swimming lessons, slo-pitch softball, fast-pitch softball, and square dance lessons. Interests and involvement have been so keen, in womens activities, we look forward to new programs including belly-dancing for women, suburban cheerleaders, co-ed volleyball, recreational swimming and instruction and the institution of a pre-school program to accompany the daytime exercise program for women.

In August of 1974, the State Legislature along with the support of the Agawam Town Council passed the revolving fund account. This special account enables the Recreation Department to run countless adult programs on a fee basis. Only two other towns in the state have such an account. New programs under this system will be started in October.

Special summer events usually generate greater enthusiasm among the Park and Recreation Department registrants such as; the gymnastics program at the high school which draws a large number of the aspiring gymnasts on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, the talent show which we intend to expand to an evening event in the near future, children's display of their Arts and Crafts handiwork at the Middle School cafeteria, visits by the Forest Park Zoo Mobile, and bicycle safety lessons from Safety Officer Stanley Chmielewski.

The projected goals of this department for the future are to encompass all areas of recreation and provide opportunities for the rewarding use of leisure time. Our goal includes all athletic and cultural aspects of recreation. To this, we intend to offer diverse programs to meet the needs of all members of our community and complement programs of other town organizations.

Board of Public Health

The Agawam Board of Health has met regularly during the past year. Our chief focus has been to implement some of the recommendations of the consultant group which reviewed the Agawam Public Health Program in 1973. Toward this end the board was recently enlarged to five members. Efforts have been made to bring the services

of the Visiting Nurses Association to the elderly residents of Agawam and the joining of the Homecare Corporation was endorsed. Both these agencies would increase home services available in the town.

A continual search has been carried on for a full time health agent. Resumes have been studied and some interviews have been set

up. Recently the scope of recruitment efforts was broadened in an attempt to find a fully qualified person who would best meet the needs of the town.

Other activities have included revision of the requirements for percolation tests, cooperation with the Agawam Lions Club in presenting the first Town Health Fair, support

to the 4-H in running the first encephalitis inoculation clinic in the town; a field trip to Bondi's Island and concern with various dumping problems, a mosquito control program, licensing, receiving reports; handling complaints and general supervision of department personnel and programs.

Public Libraries Health Department

"What was that? You aren't one of the 12,000 registered borrowers of the Agawam Public Libraries? You aren't attending the new free film programs every month? You aren't sending your child to a pre-school story hour? They are holding two each session this year. Still can't make it? Oh."

"I suppose, then, that neither you nor any other member of your family has contributed to the terrific growth in circulation. This year's total is 110,000 — a 9,000 gain over last year. That's a mighty impressive sign — shows that Agawam's citizens are not intellectually lazy."

"They really had a great time that Sunday night in July when they launched their author series — and that day in August when the trustees took over the three libraries was strictly 'light 'n lively' . . . and the November open house, buffet and new book exhibit of the teachers was just yummy! . . . and . . . excuse me? You missed all that? Really ??"

"Surprisingly, I really can understand. You are too busy. Surely though, you must not be too busy to take the children to the Summer Reading Club???? Oh. Certainly. I agree. Life is hectic. However, you must be aware that they do some really fine things. The youngsters always seem to enjoy the picnics, the workshops, the field trips — especially to places like the new Spfld. Police Dept. and the new Spfld. Newspapers building — that Mt. Holyoke Little Theater — Storowton's Children's Theater . . . Mmmm. Yes, I suppose

you do have a point. It is such a hassle to remember that one hour per week for six weeks . . . especially during that wretched summer heat."

"Excuse me? No. I'm sorry. I really can't agree that children are satisfied with being exposed to all the new and wonderful books only when the librarians visit the schools for story hours, book reviews, etc. . . . A child's most beautiful assets are his imagination and his curiosity . . ."

"Are the children's grandparents enjoying shut-in service? Never heard of it? You really can't mean that! You do . . . Aah, well. . . It has that one advantage — you don't have to do anything except call the library. The librarians bring the books and pick them up. It's their pleasure they keep telling us — and they certainly make us believe it!"

"Then, if you are unaware of that service, it would be almost impossible to tell you all the things that they are into there . . . CLEP (College Level Entrance Program) . . . Courses by Newspaper . . . more authors . . . lectures . . . exhibits (some have been quite notable and outstanding) . . . Hampden County Resource Program . . . the Bicentennial . . . Recycling for Children workshops. . ."

"By the way, you never did say if you read at all. After all, reading is free, exciting, non-inflationary, non-recessional and non-fattening. YOU DON'T READ???? YOU REALLY DON'T EXERCISE YOUR FREEDOM AND RIGHT TO READ???? Pity."

Tree Warden

We still are losing trees to many elements beyond our control; change of water tables, air pollution, sewer construction of previous years, etc.

Our major problem occurs in the Feeding Hills area where most of our larger maple trees are showing the effects of old age and changes in the water table.

We are fortunate in that we were not hit

with many storms, we had one in the early part of July but no major named storms.

The future look of our town has now taken shape from a recommendation of this department that future developments must plant trees. This would mean we could plant trees in other parts of town instead of new developments.



STACIA G. EGBERT

Acting Board of Health Agent

This department started this fiscal period with high hopes for implementation of recommendations made by a health study. As of this writing some progress has been made in that direction but full implementation is yet to come.

Prevention of illness is our prime goal and we subscribe to the old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

A health fair was conducted in the spring sponsored by the Lions Club and volunteer health personnel. This will be an annual affair in the future.

Monthly Hypertension Clinic for senior citizens is very well attended and growing. The department has initiated a skin testing service for Tuberculosis for Agawam residents. Any employees requiring this test as part of their employment conditions, may

use this service.

Regulatory Public Health controls are implemented on the local level. Requests for service range from the comic, "There's a bee in my house", to the tragic, "My wife is dying."

Other preventive programs include, Well Child Immunizations for Communicable Disease. Flu Clinic for the elderly and essential personnel. Annual Rabies Clinic was well attended by dogs and owners. Horses were immunized for Encephalitis Equinas. Home evaluation of sick elderly single dwellers occupies both Nurses and Social workers. The Health Officer reports a heavy influx of water level (Perc Test) for building purposes.

All personnel attend as many new seminars pertaining to their work as possible.